

POLITICAL SCIENCE - B.A.

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Political Science
www.kent.edu/polisci

About This Program

The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science offers a broad understanding of the political system, both domestically and internationally. With a flexible curriculum, knowledgeable faculty and experiential learning opportunities, you'll be equipped with the skills needed for a wide range of careers in the field. Apply now and start pursuing your passion for politics. Read more...

Contact Information

- Program Coordinator: **Mike Ensley** | mensley@kent.edu | 330-672-8933
- Speak with an Advisor
- Chat with an Admissions Counselor

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Political scientists

- 6.1% faster than the average
- 7,000 number of jobs
- \$125,350 potential earnings

Social science research assistants

- 5.8% faster than the average
- 40,100 number of jobs
- \$49,210 potential earnings

Political science teachers, postsecondary

- 4.9% about as fast as the average
- 19,800 number of jobs
- \$85,760 potential earnings

Secondary school teachers, except special and career/technical education

- 3.8% about as fast as the average
- 1,050,800 number of jobs
- \$62,870 potential earnings

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

Admission Requirements

The university affirmatively strives to provide educational opportunities and access to students with varied backgrounds, those with special talents and adult students who graduated from high school three or more years ago.

First-Year Students on the Kent Campus: First-year admission policy on the Kent Campus is selective. Admission decisions are based upon cumulative grade point average, strength of high school college preparatory curriculum and grade trends. Students not admissible to the Kent Campus may be administratively referred to one of the seven regional campuses to begin their college coursework. For more information, visit the admissions website for first-year students.

First-Year Students on the Regional Campuses: First-year admission to Kent State's campuses at Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull and Tuscarawas, as well as the Twinsburg Academic Center, is open to anyone with a high school diploma or its equivalent. For more information on admissions, contact the Regional Campuses admissions offices.

International Students: All international students must provide proof of English language proficiency unless they meet specific exceptions. For more information, visit the admissions website for international students.

Transfer Students: Students who have attended any other educational institution after graduating from high school must apply as undergraduate transfer students. For more information, visit the admissions website for transfer students.

Former Students: Former Kent State students or graduates who have not attended another college or university since Kent State may complete the reenrollment or reinstatement form on the University Registrar's website.

Admission policies for undergraduate students may be found in the University Catalog.

Some programs may require that students meet certain requirements before progressing through the program. For programs with progression requirements, the information is shown on the Coursework tab.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
POL 10004 or POL 10500	COMPARATIVE POLITICS (DIVG) (KSS) WORLD POLITICS (DIVG) (KSS)	3
POL 10100 or POL 10300	AMERICAN POLITICS (DIVD) (KSS) ¹ PUBLIC POLICY	3
POL 30001	RESEARCH METHODS (ELR)	3
POL 30002 or POL 30003	POLITICAL THOUGHT POLITICAL ECONOMY	3
Political Science (POL) Elective		3
Political Science (POL) Upper-Division Elective (30000 or 40000 level) ²		3
Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)		
UC 10001	FLASHES 101	1
Foreign Language (see Foreign Language College Requirement below)		14-16
Kent Core Composition		6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning		3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (minimum one course from each)		9

Kent Core Social Sciences (must be from two disciplines)	3
Kent Core Basic Sciences (must include one laboratory)	6-7
Kent Core Additional	3-6
General Electives (total credit hours depends on earning 120 credits hour, including 39 upper-division credit hours)	39
Concentrations	
Choose from the following:	18
American Politics	
General	
International Relations - Comparative Politics	
Public Policy	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:	120

¹ Students who choose POL 10100 will need to take 3 credit hours of Kent Core Additional. Students who do not choose POL 10100 will need to take 6 credit hours of Kent Core Additional.

² The following courses may be applied toward upper-division electives as approved by the department: POL 40992, POL 40995, POL 40996, POL 41990 and POL 42990.

American Politics Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
POL 40191	SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICS (WIC) ¹	3
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		15
POL 10200	INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAN LEGAL PROFESSION	
POL 30000	MAY 4 1970 AND ITS AFTERMATH	
POL 30100	AMERICAN POLITICAL THEORY	
POL 30110	THE CONGRESS	
POL 30120	PRESIDENCY AND EXECUTIVE BUREAUCRACY	
POL 30130	THE JUDICIAL PROCESS	
POL 30430	OHIO POLITICS	
POL 30450	URBAN POLITICS AND POLICY	
POL 30460	STATE POLITICS AND POLICY	
POL 40112	POLITICS AND THE MASS MEDIA	
POL 40116	PUBLIC OPINION AND POLITICAL BEHAVIOR	
POL 40118	POLITICAL PARTIES AND INTEREST GROUPS	
POL 40182	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURES AND FUNCTIONS	
POL 40183	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES (DIVD)	
POL 40410	REGULATORY POLICY	
POL 40440	U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICIES	
POL 40450	HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL POLICY	
POL 40470	WOMEN, POLITICS AND POLICY (DIVD)	
POL 40620	POLITICS OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS (DIVD)	
POL 40930	U.S. FOREIGN POLICY	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		18

¹ A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

General Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
POL 40191	SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICS (WIC) ¹	3
or POL 40391	SEMINAR IN PUBLIC POLICY (WIC)	
or POL 40591	SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS-COMPARATIVE POLITICS (WIC)	
Political Science (POL) Upper-Division Electives (30000 or 40000 level) ²		15
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		18

¹ A minimum C grade must be earned in one to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

² The following courses may be applied toward upper-division electives as approved by the department: POL 40992, POL 40995, POL 40996, POL 41990 and POL 42990.

International Relations - Comparative Politics Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
POL 40591	SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS-COMPARATIVE POLITICS (WIC) ¹	3
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		15
POL 30500	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY	
POL 30520	EUROPEAN POLITICS (DIVG)	
POL 30530	ASIAN POLITICS (DIVG)	
POL 30540	AFRICAN POLITICS (DIVG)	
POL 30550	LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS (DIVG)	
POL 30560	MIDDLE EAST POLITICS (DIVG)	
POL 30570	PALESTINE AND ISRAEL (DIVG)	
POL 30810	POLITICS OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY	
POL 30820	INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND LAW	
POL 30840	NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	
POL 40530	POLITICS OF WAR	
POL 40540	POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT (DIVG)	
POL 40560	HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (DIVG)	
POL 40620	POLITICS OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS (DIVD)	
POL 40840	COMPARATIVE FOREIGN POLICY	
POL 40930	U.S. FOREIGN POLICY	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		18

¹ A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

Public Policy Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
POL 40391	SEMINAR IN PUBLIC POLICY (WIC) ¹	3
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		15
POL 10200	INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAN LEGAL PROFESSION	
POL 30300	PUBLIC POLICY THEORY	
POL 30301	INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	

POL 30310	PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS
POL 30350	ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION
POL 30430	OHIO POLITICS
POL 30450	URBAN POLITICS AND POLICY
POL 30460	STATE POLITICS AND POLICY
POL 30810	POLITICS OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY
POL 30820	INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND LAW
POL 30840	NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
POL 40320	ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY
POL 40410	REGULATORY POLICY
POL 40440	U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICIES
POL 40450	HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL POLICY
POL 40470	WOMEN, POLITICS AND POLICY (DIVD)
POL 40840	COMPARATIVE FOREIGN POLICY
POL 40930	U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 18

¹ A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
2.000	2.000

Foreign Language College Requirement, B.A.

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete 14-16 credit hours of foreign language.¹ To complete the requirement, students need the equivalent of Elementary I and II in any language, plus one of the following options²:

- Intermediate I and II of the same language
- Elementary I and II of a second language
- Any combination of two courses from the following list:
 - Intermediate I of the same language
 - ARAB 21401
 - ASL 19401
 - CHIN 25421
 - MCLS 10001
 - MCLS 20001
 - MCLS 20091
 - MCLS 21417
 - MCLS 21420
 - MCLS 22217
 - MCLS 28403
 - MCLS 28404

¹ All students with prior foreign language experience should take the foreign language placement test to determine the appropriate level at which to start. Some students may start beyond the Elementary I level and will complete the requirement with fewer credit hours and fewer courses. This may be accomplished by (1) passing a course beyond Elementary I through Intermediate II level; (2) receiving credit through one of the alternative credit programs offered by Kent State University; or (3) demonstrating language proficiency comparable to Elementary II of a foreign language. When students complete the requirement

with fewer than 14 credit hours and four courses, they will complete remaining credit hours with general electives.

² Certain majors, concentrations and minors may require specific languages, limit the languages from which a student may choose or require coursework through Intermediate II. Students who plan to pursue graduate study may need particular language coursework.

Roadmap

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this major. However, courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

Semester One		Credits
POL 10100	AMERICAN POLITICS (DIVD) (KSS)	3
or	or PUBLIC POLICY	
POL 10300		
UC 10001	FLASHES 101	1
	Foreign Language	4
	Kent Core Requirement	3
	Kent Core Requirement	3
Credit Hours		14
Semester Two		
POL 10004	COMPARATIVE POLITICS (DIVG) (KSS)	3
or	or WORLD POLITICS (DIVG) (KSS)	
POL 10500		
	Foreign Language	4
	Kent Core Requirement	3
	Kent Core Requirement	3
	Kent Core Requirement	3
Credit Hours		16
Semester Three		
POL 30002	POLITICAL THOUGHT	3
or	or POLITICAL ECONOMY	
POL 30003		
	Foreign Language	3
	Kent Core Requirement	3
	Kent Core Requirement	3
	Kent Core Requirement	3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Four		
	Concentration Electives	6
	Foreign Language	3
	Kent Core Requirement	3
	Kent Core Requirement	3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Five		
POL 30001	RESEARCH METHODS (ELR)	3
	Concentration Electives	6
	General Electives	6
Credit Hours		15
Semester Six		
	Political Science (POL) Elective	3
	Concentration Elective	3
	Kent Core Requirement or General Elective	3
	General Electives	6
Credit Hours		15

Semester Seven

Political Science (POL) Upper-Division Elective (30000 or 40000 level) 3

General Electives 12

Credit Hours 15

Semester Eight

Concentration Seminar Requirement 3

General Electives 12

Credit Hours 15

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 120

University Requirements

All students in a bachelor's degree program at Kent State University must complete the following university requirements for graduation.

NOTE: University requirements may be fulfilled in this program by specific course requirements. Please see Program Requirements for details.

Flashes 101 (UC 10001)	1 credit hour
Course is not required for students with 30+ transfer credits (excluding College Credit Plus) or age 21+ at time of admission.	
Diversity Domestic/Global (DIVD/DIVG)	2 courses
Students must successfully complete one domestic and one global course, of which one must be from the Kent Core.	
Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR)	varies
Students must successfully complete one course or approved experience.	
Kent Core (see table below)	36-37 credit hours
Writing-Intensive Course (WIC)	1 course
Students must earn a minimum C grade in the course.	
Upper-Division Requirement	39 credit hours
Students must successfully complete 39 upper-division (numbered 30000 to 49999) credit hours to graduate.	
Total Credit Hour Requirement	120 credit hours

Kent Core Requirements

Kent Core Composition (KCOMP)	6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning (KMCR)	3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/KFA) (min one course each)	9
Kent Core Social Sciences (KSS) (must be from two disciplines)	6
Kent Core Basic Sciences (KBS/KLAB) (must include one laboratory)	6-7
Kent Core Additional (KADL)	6
Total Credit Hours:	36-37

5. Demonstrate competence with quantitative statistical and qualitative analysis tools.

Full Description

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science empowers students to be engaged global citizens and informed consumers of information who are competitive in a range of careers. Graduates work in the public and private sectors across the United States and around the globe. Many also go on to graduate programs or to law school.

Students in the major are provided internship and study abroad opportunities, including two semester-long, 15-credit hour internship programs, one in Washington, D.C., and one in Columbus, Ohio. In addition, the Department of Political Science offers study-abroad courses in multiple countries during the summer, and students often also take advantage of Kent State programs in Florence, Italy, and Geneva, Switzerland. More information can be found on the Department of Political Science website.

- The Political Science major comprises the following concentrations:
- The **American Politics** concentration investigates the political context of life in the United States in courses on public opinion, elections and the media, as well as Congress, the presidency, and the courts.
 - The **International Relations-Comparative Politics** concentration focuses on international policy and politics, including aid and development, energy and oil, human rights and regions of the world (e.g., Latin America, the Middle East and Russia).
 - The **General** concentration allows students to design their own specialization rather than choosing a specific area to concentrate.
 - The **Public Policy** concentration explores how governments address major policy questions such as health care, environmental protection and foreign policy. Courses introduce students not only to policy questions and implications, but also to the skills involved in policy analysis.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking and analysis skills.
2. Demonstrate advanced written and oral communication skills.
3. Demonstrate advanced understanding of national and international issues and political systems.
4. Demonstrate multicultural literacy.